

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5368

UNCLAS MEXICO 16396

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (CARMONA, LINDA KAY)
SUBJECT: W/W: LINDA KAY CARMONA

REF: STATE 229907

1. MR. EFRAIN CARMONA, A MEXICAN CITIZEN, LEFT WIFE AND DAUGHTER IN MEXICO CITY AND DROVE TO VERACRUZ WHERE, ACCORDING MEXICAN OFFICIALS AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, HE WAS ARRESTED FOR DESECRATING MEXICAN FLAG. CARMONA WAS CHARGED WITH USING FLAG TO WASH HIS CAR AND CLEAN HIS SHOES AND WITH HAVING MEXICAN FLAG ON RUBBER MATS IN CAR. HE WAS ALSO CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL USE OF AN IMPORTED VEHICLE. ACCORDING MEXICAN LAW AND RULES ON TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES BY TOURISTS, ONLY TOURISTS OR OTHER NONRESIDENTS MAY DRIVE VEHICLE. MRS. CARMONA ORIGINALLY CONTACTED EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN GETTING HER HUSBAND RELEASED FROM JAIL. EMBASSY NOT IN POSITION TO ASSIST AS TO ARREST, SINCE HUSBAND IS MEXICAN CITIZEN NOT SHOWN TO BE EVEN LEGAL RESIDENT ALIEN OF U.S. EFRAIN EVENTUALLY WAS RELEASED THROUGH HIS FAMILY'S EFFORTS. CHARGES AGAINST VEHICLE AND FINE OF 40,000 PESOS (APPROXIMATELY 1,800 DOLLARS) HAVE NOT BEEN DROPPED, AND MR. CARMONA HAS REPEATEDLY COME TO EMBASSY ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE IN HAVING THE FINE DROPPED OR REDUCED. EMBASSY HAS WRITTEN TWICE TO DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL REGISTRY OF AUTOMOBILES ASKING

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THAT THEY GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO MR. AND MRS. CARMONA'S CASE, BUT WITHOUT RESULTS. VEHICLE TITLE IS HELD IN JOINT TENANCY BY MR. AND MRS. CARMONA.

2. CARMONAS VISITED EMBASSY SEPT. 26 AND TOLD CONOFF MRS. CARMONA'S FATHER HAS CALLED WASHINGTON ON HER BEHALF TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE. FATHER TOLD HER TO COME TO EMBASSY AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD PAY FINE TO HAVE

VEHICLE UNIMPOUNDED. MR. CARMONA SAID A LAWYER HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING GOM OFFICIALS TO REDUCE FINE TO 10,000 PESOS BUT THAT HE STILL UNABLE RAISE MONEY, AND IS UNWILLING TO LEAVE MEXICO WITHOUT THE CAR. CONOFF EXPLAINED THAT MR. MOORE MISTAKEN, THAT EMBASSY NOT ABLE TO PAY FINES INCURRED BY U.S. CITIZENS, MUCH LESS THOSE INCURRED BY MEXICAN NATIONALS.

3. CONOFF AGAIN OUTLINED OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO MRS. CARMONA (THIS HAS BEEN DONE SEVERAL TIMES PREVIOUSLY, BUT CARMONAS UNWILLING SELECT ANY OPTIONS AVAILABLE) NAMELY, (1) THAT THEY RAISE MONEY FROM HIS FAMILY HERE OR HER FAMILY IN U.S. TO PAY FINE AND HAVE CAR RELEASED, OR (2) THAT THEY LEAVE VEHICLE IMPOUNDED AND REQUEST EXIT PERMIT FROM GOM THEN RETURN FROM U.S. AT LATER DATE TO PAY FINE AND SECURE RELEASE OF CAR WITHIN SIX MONTHS. CARMONAS LEFT EMBASSY WITHOUT HAVING DECIDED WHAT ACTION TO TAKE. LUCEY

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